

of drugs should not be tolerated in Nebraska. We have had a substantial increase in the amount of arrests and confiscation of cocaine and crack in the Omaha area since only last year. In 1987, we had the amount of cocaine seized in Omaha jump from 8.3 pounds to 31 pounds in 1988, and cocaine seizures from January to March 19th of this year, 11.3 pounds of cocaine and crack was seized in the Omaha area. In addition, this has been a problem and increasing as well in the Douglas County area, and from '87 there were 2 ounces seized to the present time of 13.5 ounces seized. Now, by way of comparison, I think you have to take a look at what has been happening across the country with cocaine and crack. In Los Angeles, back in 1969, the amount of seizures of cocaine was about 1.4 pounds. In '75, this increased to 49 pounds. In 1980, it increased to 183 pounds; '82, 358 pounds; '83, 881 pounds. In 1985, it increased to 2,565 pounds. In 1986, it increased to 4,357 pounds, and it has been escalating since that time. The drugs have a... cocaine used to be more of a problem dealing with drug problems around the country, but it has changed to crack. There is different reasons as to why this has changed, but the major reason, I think, is it is the type of drug that can easily be... I guess it is called a dealer's dream because it is easily sellable. It is enormously profitable, and it is relatively simple to sell, and it can be sold in small doses, as small as \$5 to \$10 per dose, and this makes it very appealing to young people because they can buy it in small quantities. The problem with the drug, and I guess the danger with it, is that the high that an individual receives from the drug is relatively fast. They receive the high, it is a very intense high, and then they have to purchase some more. It is a highly addictive drug, and the difference, I guess, between the two in the rate of the high, as it was explained to me, was that cocaine when it is sniffed through the nose, it doesn't hit as many blood vessels, whereas, crack, when it is inhaled and smoked through a pipe, it hits all of the blood vessels in the lungs, and as a result, the high is a much faster high, a more intense high, whereas, when they sniff cocaine, it is a much slower high. As I said, the law enforcement officials have been behind what they felt was a very strong need to deal with the cocaine and crack problem, and I was able to procure or borrow a sample of a one ounce procaine. It is similar or it is the same in substance as cocaine. It provides... but this will give you an idea of how much one ounce would be. It is a rather flaky substance, kind of crystallized, whereas, a crack substance is in a form where it is yellow in color. The committee was able to... the Omaha